

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
1.1 Project Description and Location	1-1
1.2 Purpose and Need for a New Rawlins Resource Management Plan	1-1
1.3 Purpose and Use of the Management Situation Analysis.....	1-3
1.4 Synopsis of the Major Planning Process Steps.....	1-3
1.5 Mandates and Authorities for Preparation of the Rawlins RMP/EIS	1-3
1.6 Constraints Requirements for Consistency With Other Entities	1-4
1.7 Preliminary Planning Criteria.....	1-5
1.8 Management Issues.....	1-5
2.0 CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION AND ACTIONS BY LAND USE OR RESOURCE USES.....	2-1
2.1 EXISTING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FROM THE CURRENT RMP	2-1
2.1.1 Air Quality	2-1
2.1.2 Cultural Resources	2-2
2.1.3 Fire	2-3
2.1.4 Forestry	2-4
2.1.5 Health/Safety and Hazardous Materials (New Initiative, See Section 2.3)	2-5
2.1.6 Lands and Realty.....	2-5
2.1.7 Livestock Grazing.....	2-7
2.1.8 Minerals	2-9
2.1.9 Off-Highway Vehicle Use	2-13
2.1.10 Paleontology	2-14
2.1.11 Recreation Resources.....	2-14
2.1.12 Socioeconomic	2-16
2.1.13 Soils and Watershed.....	2-16
2.1.14 Transportation and Access	2-17
2.1.15 Vegetation.....	2-18
2.1.16 Visual Resources.....	2-19
2.1.17 Water Quality and Riparian Areas.....	2-19
2.1.18 Wild Horses	2-20
2.1.19 Wildlife and Fisheries	2-20
2.1.20 Special Management Areas.....	2-24
2.2 AMENDMENTS AND MAINTENANCE EDITS	2-28
2.2.1 Air Quality	2-29
2.2.2 Cultural Resources	2-29
2.2.3 Fire	2-29
2.2.4 Forestry	2-29
2.2.5 Health/Safety and Hazardous Materials.....	2-29
2.2.6 Lands and Realty.....	2-30
2.2.7 Livestock Grazing.....	2-30
2.2.8 Minerals	2-31

2.2.9	Off-Highway Vehicle Use	2-32
2.2.10	Paleontology	2-33
2.2.11	Recreation Resources.....	2-33
2.2.12	Socioeconomic	2-33
2.2.13	Soils and Watershed.....	2-33
2.2.14	Transportation and access.....	2-34
2.2.15	Vegetation.....	2-34
2.2.16	Visual Resources.....	2-34
2.2.17	Water Quality and Riparian Areas.....	2-34
2.2.18	Wild Horses	2-34
2.2.19	Wildlife and Fisheries	2-36
2.2.20	Special Management Areas.....	2-37
2.2.21	Laws, Regulations, and Policy	2-38
2.3	CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION AND ACTIONS BY LAND USE OR RESOURCE USES	2-40
2.3.1	Air Quality	2-40
2.3.2	Cultural Resources	2-41
2.3.3	Fires (Wildland)	2-42
2.3.4	Forestry	2-42
2.3.5	Health/Safety and Hazardous Materials.....	2-43
2.3.6	Lands and Realty.....	2-44
2.3.7	Livestock Grazing.....	2-46
2.3.8	Minerals	2-48
2.3.9	Off-Highway Vehicle Use	2-51
2.3.10	Paleontology	2-52
2.3.11	Recreation Resources.....	2-53
2.3.12	Socioeconomic	2-53
2.3.13	Soils and Watershed.....	2-53
2.3.14	Transportation and Access	2-54
2.3.15	Vegetation	2-55
2.3.16	Visual Resources.....	2-58
2.3.17	Water Quality and Riparian Areas.....	2-58
2.3.18	Wild Horses	2-58
2.3.19	Wildlife and Fisheries	2-60
2.3.20	Special Management Areas.....	2-62
2.4	REFERENCES FOR CHAPTER 2 OF THE RAWLINS MSA	2-62
3.0	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT	3-1
3.1	Air Resources	3-1
3.2	Cultural Resources.....	3-8
3.3	Fire.....	3-10
3.4	Forestry	3-11
3.5	Health/Safety and Hazardous Materials	3-15
3.6	Lands and Realty	3-18
3.7	Livestock Grazing.....	3-20
3.8	Minerals, Geology, And Topography	3-25

3.9	Off-Highway Vehicles.....	3-36
3.10	Paleontology	3-38
3.11	Recreation.....	3-40
3.12	Socioeconomics	3-43
3.13	Soils	3-52
3.14	Transportation and Access.....	3-56
3.15	Vegetation.....	3-57
3.16	Visual Resources	3-75
3.17	Watershed and Water Quality.....	3-78
3.18	Wild Horses	3-84
3.19	Wildlife and Fish	3-88
3.20	Special Management Areas	3-110
3.21	References Cited And Documents Reviewed.....	3-118
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	4-1
4.1	AIR QUALITY.....	4-2
4.2	CULTURAL RESOURCES	4-3
4.3	FIRES	4-4
4.4	FORESTRY.....	4-5
4.5	HEALTH/SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	4-6
4.6	LANDS AND REALTY.....	4-7
4.7	LIVESTOCK GRAZING	4-7
4.8	MINERALS, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY	4-10
4.9	OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE	4-11
4.10	PALEONTOLOGY	4-12
4.11	RECREATION RESOURCES	4-12
4.12	SOCIOECONOMICS.....	4-13
4.13	SOILS.....	4-15
4.14	TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS	4-15
4.15	VEGETATION	4-17
4.16	VISUAL RESOURCES	4-19
4.17	WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHEDS	4-20
4.18	WILD HORSES.....	4-21
4.19	WILDLIFE AND FISH.....	4-22
4.20	SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.....	4-24
5.0	GLOSSARY	
6.0	ACRONYMS	

LIST OF TABLES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- Table 1.1-1. Land and Minerals Ownership and Administrative Jurisdiction within the Rawlins Field Office.
Table 1.4-1. The BLM Land Use Planning Process Steps.

2.0 CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION and ACTIONS BY LAND USE OR RESOURCE USES

- Table 2.1.6-1. Withdrawal Summary.
Table 2.1.7-1. Minimum Monitoring Standards.
Table 2.1.8-1. Acreages with Seasonal and Surface Disturbance Restrictions.
Table 2.1.18-1. Ranking of Standard Habitat Types.
Table 2.3.6-1. Summary of Withdrawals.

3.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY

- Table 3.1-1. Concentrations of Criteria Air Pollutants.
Table 3.1-2. Summary of Air Quality in the Vicinity of the Rawlins RMPPA.

FORESTRY

- Table 3.4-1. Scientific Names for Plants and Animals Mentioned as Occurring Within the Rawlins RMPPA.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HEALTH/SAFETY

- Table 3.5-1. List of Hazardous Constituents Potentially Used or Produced During Construction, Drilling, Production, and Reclamation Associated with Oil and Gas Operations.

LANDS, REALTY AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS (ROWS) INCLUDING UTILITY AND COMMUNICATION CORRIDORS

- Table 3.6.1. Lands and Mineral Ownership and Administrative Jurisdiction within the Rawlins RMPPA.
Table 3.6-2. Well Pad Sizes for Oil and Gas Development Proposed in the RMPPA.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

- Table 3.7-1. Cattle and Sheep Numbers in Albany, Carbon, and Laramie Counties from 1905 to 2000.

- Table 3.7-2. Livestock Actual Use in Animal Unit Months (AUMs) for the Rawlins RMPPA from 1991 to 2000.
- Table 3.7-3. Table of Range Allotment Information for the Rawlins RMPPA.

MINERALS, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

- Table 3.8-1. Rawlins RMPPA Well Status on April 1, 2002.
- Table 3.8-2. Known Locatable Minerals Deposits in the Rawlins RMPPA.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)

- Table 3.9-1. Participants and Visitor Days Associated with OHV Use in the RMPPA.

PALEONTOLOGY

- Table 3.10-1. Paleontological Classification Descriptions and Procedures.
- Table 3.10-2. Paleontological Significance of Units and Formations.

RECREATION

- Table 3.11-1. Recreational Management System Information on Recreation Participants and Visitor Days in the RMPPA.
- Table 3.11-2. Recreation Visits by Location in the RMPPA.

SOCIOECONOMICS

- Table 3.12-1. Geographic Characteristics of Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-2. Population Centers in the Rawlins Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-3. Components of Population Change in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-4. Personal Income in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-5. Estimated Poverty Rates in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-6. Change in Civilian Labor Force in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-7. Economic Diversity in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-8. Estimated Value of Grazing Activities on BLM Lands within the Rawlins RMPPA for 1997.
- Table 3.12-9. Percentage of Agricultural Sales in the Socioeconomic Study Area Attributed to Grazing on BLM Lands in the Rawlins RMPPA for 1997.
- Table 3.12-10. Assessed Property Valuations within the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-11. Value of Oil and Gas Production in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-12. Mineral Ad Valorem Tax Revenues in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-13. Ad Valorem Tax Revenues on Oil and Gas and Coal in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-14. Oil and Gas Tax Revenues as a Percentage of County Property Tax.

- Table 3.12-15. Severance Tax Distribution for Government Entities in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-16. Severance Tax by Product in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-17. Estimated Ad Valorem Tax Production.
- Table 3.12-18. Estimated Severance Tax Production.
- Table 3.12-19. Estimated Federal Royalties Production.
- Table 3.12-20. Lodging Tax Distributions in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-21. Sales and Use Tax Distributions in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Table 3.12-22. Population Distribution by Race and Hispanic Status in the Socioeconomic Study Area of the RMPPA.

SOILS

- Table 3.13-1. Statewide Soil Zones and the Soil Descriptions Occurring Within them in the RMPPA.

VEGETATION

- Table 3.15-1. RMPPA Vegetation Zones Mapped from Plant Community Classes Developed from GAP Satellite Imagery, Including Zone Total Area and Description.
- Table 3.15-2. Plant Species Typical of Wetlands and Wet Meadows in Wyoming.
- Table 3.15-3. Threatened And Endangered Plants In The RMPPA.
- Table 3.15-4. BLM Sensitive Plant Species in RMPPA.
- Table 3.15-5. Poisonous Plants in the RMPPA

VISUAL RESOURCES

- Table 3.16-1. Visual Resource Management Classifications and Acreages in the RMPPA.

WATERSHED AND WATER QUALITY

- Table 3.17-1. Watersheds and Their Acreage Within the RMPPA.
- Table 3.17-2. Discharge from Selected USGS Gaging Stations in the RMPPA.

WILD HORSES

- Table 3.18-1. Wild Horse Management Areas (HMAs), and Other Areas Affected by Wild Horses within Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs), and Estimated Populations in the RMPPA.
- Table 3.18-2. The Association of RMPPA Wild Horse Herds with Regional Metapopulations.
- Table 3.18-3. Grazing Within the Wild Horse Management Areas (HMAs) of the RMPPA.
- Table 3.18-4. Age and Sex Distribution of Wild Horses in the I-80 South Area of the RMPPA in 1999—an Example.
- Table 3.18-5. Status of Riparian Areas Surveyed in HMAs of the RMPPA.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

- Table 3.19-1. Acreage for Pronghorn Herd Units and Hunt Areas in the RMPPA.
- Table 3.19-2. Pronghorn Harvest in the Primary Herd Management Areas of the RMPPA.
- Table 3.19-3. Mule Deer Harvest in the Primary Herd Management Areas of the RMPPA.
- Table 3.19-4. Elk Harvest in the Primary Herd Management Areas of the RMPPA.
- Table 3.19-5. Documented Presence of Upland Game Birds, Small Game Mammals, and Furbearers in Management Areas of the RMPPA
- Table 3.19-6. Characterization of Raptor Nests in the RMPPA.
- Table 3.19-7. Federally Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species in the Rawlins RMP Planning Area.
- Table 3.19-8. State of Wyoming Sensitive Mammal and Bird Species.
- Table 3.19-9. Fish species present in the RMPPA.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

- Table 3.20-1. Recreational Management System Information for Special Management Areas Within the RMPPA.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

- Table 4.0-1. Assumptions for MSA Impact Analysis.

LIST OF MAPS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- Map 1.1-1. Overview Map.
Map 1.1-2. Rawlins Field Office Area.

3.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY

- Map 3.1-1 Air Quality PSD Class I Areas.

FORESTRY

- Map 3.4-1. Forest Type and Stand Delineation.

LANDS, REALTY AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS (ROWS) INCLUDING UTILITY AND COMMUNICATION CORRIDORS

- Map 3.6-1. Surface Ownership.
Map 3.6-2. Federally Owned Mineral Rights.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

- Map 3.7-1. Rawlins Allotments.

MINERALS, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

- Map 3.8-1. Major Geologic Units of the Rawlins Planning Area.
Map 3.8-2. Major Structural Elements of the Rawlins Planning Area.
Map 3.8-3. Rawlins Topography and Landmarks.
Map 3.8-4. Major Oil and Gas Field Locations.

RECREATION

- Map 3.11-1. Recreation Sites
Map 3.11-2. Special Recreation Management Areas.

SOILS

- Map 3.13-1. Statewide Soil Zones from 1987 RMP/EIS.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Map 3.14-1. Transportation Network.

VEGETATION

Map 3.15-1 Ecological Provinces.

Map 3.15-2. GAP Vegetation Map and NWI Wetland Data.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Map 3.16-1. Visual Resource Management Classes.

WATERSHED AND WATER QUALITY

Map 3.17-1. Fourth Order Watershed.

WILD HORSES

Map 3.18-1a. Wild Horse Locations in 1971.

Map 3.18-1b. Wild Horse Management Areas.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Map 3.19-1. Antelope Crucial Winter Range and Herd Management Areas.

Map 3.19-2. Mule Deer Herd Management Areas and Crucial Winter Ranges.

Map 3.19-3. Elk Crucial Winter Range with Parturition Areas.

Map 3.19-4. Waterfowl Management Areas.

Map 3.19-5. Sage Grouse Leks.

Map 3.19-6. Upland Game, Small Game, Furbearer Management Areas.

Map 3.19-7. Raptor Concentration Areas.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Map 3.20-1. Wilderness Study Areas

Map 3.20-2. ACECs--Como Bluff , Sand Hills, Jep Canyon, Shamrock Hills.

LIST OF FIGURES

2.0 CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Figure 2.2.3-1. Flowchart for Management of Wildland Fire.

3.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY

- Figure 3.1-1a. Mean Monthly Temperatures in the Great Divide Region.
- Figure 3.1-1b. Mean Monthly Maximum Temperatures in Rawlins, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-1c. Mean Monthly Maximum Temperatures in Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-2a. Mean Monthly Precipitation in the Rawlins RMPPA Region.
- Figure 3.1-2b. Mean Monthly Snowfall in the Rawlins RMPPA Region.
- Figure 3.1-2c. Mean Monthly Precipitation Trend in Rawlins, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-2d. Mean Monthly Precipitation in Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-2e. Mean Annual Total Precipitation Trend in the Rawlins RMPPA Region.
- Figure 3.1-3. Capacity to Disperse Air Pollutants in Rock Springs, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-4. Wind Rose for Centennial.
- Figure 3.1-5a. Mean Annual Concentrations of Nitrogen Compounds in Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-5b. Mean Annual Concentrations of Nitrogen Compounds in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.
- Figure 3.1-6a. Weekly Concentrations of Nitrate, Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-6b. Weekly Concentrations of Ammonium, Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-7a. Mean Annual Concentrations of Sulfur Compounds in Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-7b. Mean Annual Concentrations of Sulfur Compounds in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.
- Figure 3.1-8a. Weekly Concentrations of SO₂ in Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-8b. Weekly Concentrations of SO₄ in Centennial, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-9. Mean Annual Ozone Concentrations In the Rawlins RMPPA Region.
- Figure 3.1-10. Visibility in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.
- Figure 3.1-11. Mean Annual Precipitation pH in the Great Divide Region.
- Figure 3.1-12a. Mean Annual Wet Deposition in the Snowy Range in Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-12b. Mean Annual Wet Deposition in South Pass City, Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-13a. Mean Annual Dry Deposition of Sulfur and Nitrogen Compounds in the Snowy Range in Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-13b. Mean Annual Dry Deposition of Sulfur and Nitrogen Compounds in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
- Figure 3.1-14a. Total Nitrogen Deposition in the Snowy Range in Wyoming.
- Figure 3.1-14b. Total Sulfur Deposition in the Snowy Range in Wyoming.

SOCIOECONOMICS

- Figure 3.12-1. Land Ownership—Four County Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-2. Land Ownership—Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.12-3. Population Estimate for Counties in the Socioeconomic Study Area
- Figure 3.12-4. Ethnicity in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-5. Unemployment Rate in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-6. Employment by Industry in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-7. Percentage of Gross Earnings by Industry in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-8. Local Assessed Property in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-9. Historic Gas Production in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-10. Historic Production of Oil in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-11. State Assessed Property in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-12. Annual PILT Payments in the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-13. Percent of Minority Population by County in Wyoming, Including the Socioeconomic Study Area.
- Figure 3.12-14. Median Household Income and Poverty Rate by County for Wyoming, Including the Socioeconomic Study Area.

WILD HORSES

- Figure 3.18-1. Wild Horse Population Fluctuations in Two of the Rawlins RMPPA Horse Management Areas.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

- Figure 3.19-1. Pronghorn Harvest in Wyoming and Major Herd Management Areas Within the Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.19-2. Pronghorn Harvest by Major Herd Management Unit Within the Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.19-3. Mule Deer Harvest in Wyoming and Major Herd Management Areas Within the Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.19-4. Mule Deer Harvest by Major Herd Management Unit Within the Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.19-5. Elk Harvest in Wyoming and Major Herd Management Areas Within the Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.19-6. Elk Harvest by Major Herd Management Unit in the Rawlins RMPPA.
- Figure 3.19-7. Harvest of Other Big Game Species in Wyoming.
- Figure 3.19-8. Wyoming Harvest Data for Waterfowl, Other Water Birds, and Upland Game Birds.
- Figure 3.19-9. Harvest of Waterfowl and Other Water Birds in the Major Management Areas of the Rawlins RMPPA
- Figure 3.19-10. Harvest of Upland Game Species in Major Management Areas of the Rawlins RMPPA.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A - Laws, Regulations and Policy

Appendix B - Preliminary Planning Criteria for the Rawlins RMP

Appendix C - Wyoming Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities

Appendix D - Coal

Appendix E - Standards for Healthy Rangelands and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for the Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Wyoming

Appendix F - Coal (revised)

Appendix G - Land Exchange Criteria

Appendix H - Standard Special Coal Stipulations

Appendix I - The Rawlins Field Office Weed Prevention Plan of April 1999

Appendix J - Air Quality Regulations